(b) if so, the suggestions made in this regard;

(c) what are the directions issued by the Prime Minister; and

(d) to what extent they haye been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes Sir. However, the original report relates to analysis of bottled water of Delhi region only.

(b) It has been suggested that—

(i) the BIS standards for package drinking water and natural mineral water need to be set up into more precisely defined and quantitative standards;

(ii) responsibility needs to be fixed at different levels, including at packaging level;

(iii) standard procedures for monitoring of quality need to be set up; and

(iv) correct, accurate and quantitative labeling needs to be evolved and mandated.

(c) The letter has been sent by PM Office to Ministry of Health on 24th February, 2003 for appropriate action; however, no specific directions have been issued.

(d) Does not arise.

Presticides in bottled water

1845. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a study report by a reputed NGO has found unacceptable levels of pesticides in bottled water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the report;

(d) if so, the result arising thereof and the response thereon;

(e) whether the Government have written to the Prime Minister confirming the findings of the NGO and seeking his urgent intervention; and

(f) if so, the response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Centre for Science and Environment, a non-Governmental organization, has done the pesticides residues analysis based on the European Norms which specifies the limit of 0.0005 ppm (Part Per Million) for total pesticide residues. This can only be detected by a sophisticated equipment like Gas Chromatograph using detectors like Electron Capture Detector etc. which can detect upto 0.0001 ppm.

(c) and (d) Taking cognizance of the report, the Government constituted an Inquiry Committee under the Chairpersonship of Additional Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Committee is enquiring into various issues related to BIS Standards for Packaged Drinking Water/Natural Mineral Water. Bureau of Indian Standards has already evolved amendments in Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the world's best norms for pesticides residues. They will be implemented after they are incorporated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued a notification inviting comments from public to amend the standards of Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act Rules, 1955.

(e) Minister Science and Technology has written a letter to the Prime Minister suggesting that:

(i) the BIS standards for package of drinking water and natural-mineral water need to be set up into more precisely defined and quantitative standards;

(ii) responsibility needs to be fixed at different levels, including at packaging level;

(iii) standard procedures for monitoring of quality need to be set up; and

(iv) correct, accurate and quantitative labeling needs to be evolved and mandated.

(f) The letter has been sent by PM Office to Ministry of Health for appropriate action.

Assistance to Assam Science Society

1846. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to help science societies/ organisations of our country;

(b) if so, what are those provisions; and

(c) whether Assam Science Society has ever been helped; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government provides grant-in-aid projects to science based institutions including registered societies for scientific capability building and development of appropriate technologies. Such projects are supported through designated schemes.

(c) Following projects were sanctioned to Assam Science Society, Guwahati:

	Title of the Project	Year of sanction
1.	Annotated bibliography of popular science books in Assamese language	20-9-1994
2.	Workshop on science writing/journalism	03-11 -1999
3.	Publication of annotated bibliography on Popular S&T books in Assamese	02-03-2000
4.	Scientific rearing of pigs for socio-economic development of tribals of Kamroop Distt.	13-06-2000
5.	Industrial tour for school students	27-06-2001